

REMARKS:

In the foregoing amendments, claims 1 and 2 were amended and claims 4 and 5 were added to the application. Accordingly, claims 1-5 are in the application for consideration by the examiner.

The foregoing amendments are being made to clarify what was already implied in applicant's claims and these amendments are not narrowing amendments and are not being made for reasons substantially related to patentability presented. New claims 4 and 5 are similar in scope to original claims 1 and 2. Claim 1 was amended to define a "torsion bar" spring. This definition is included in new claim 4.

In the foregoing amendments, applicant's specification was amended to correct the typographical error on page 12, line 8, as noted in the outstanding Office action. Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests that any objection to the specification be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Claims 1-3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. In the foregoing amendments to the claims, the expression "track-type" that was mentioned in this rejection was removed from the claims. Similarly, the phrase "a first arm portion and a second that portion that are provided in left and right pairs" in claim 2 was amended by deleting the phrase therein: "are provided in right and left pairs." Applicant respectfully submits the claims 1-3 and new claims 4 and

5 particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter regarded as the invention within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Therefore, applicant respectfully requests that the examiner reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

Claims 2 and 3 were not rejected over prior art. The Official action stated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In the foregoing amendments, claim 2 was so amended. Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests a formal allowance of claim 2 and claim 3 that depends thereon.

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. patent No. 1,429,449 of Norelius. Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1, 4 and 5 are patently distinguishable from the teachings of Norelius within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §102 or 35 U.S.C. §103 for at least the following reasons.

Amended claim 1 and new claim 4 require, *inter alia*, a torsion bar spring. The teachings of Norelius do not disclose or suggest this aspect of the presently claimed invention. In particular, the teachings of Norelius propose an equalizer bar 24, which is a leaf spring. This leaf spring proposed by Norelius is different in structure and function from the presently claimed torsion bar spring. The equalizer bar 24 (leaf spring) proposed by Norelius may suppress vibrations in the vertical direction. However, the torsion bar spring

defined in claims 1 and 4 suppresses vibration in the torsional direction. Namely, the arrangements in claims 1 and 4 suppresses vibrations of the track frame in directions except for the torsional direction with the rigidity of the track frame, and suppresses vibrations in the torsional direction with the torsion bar spring. The teachings of Norelius do not contemplate or suggest this structure or function. For these reasons, applicant respectfully submits that the inventions defined in claims 1 and 4 are patently distinguishable from the teachings of Norelius.

In addition, the teachings of Norelius do not contemplate or suggest the structure including first and second arm portions, where the first and second arm portions have a first end respectively fixed to opposing ends of the equalizer bar main body and a second end respectively pivoted to right and left track frames, as required in claim 1.

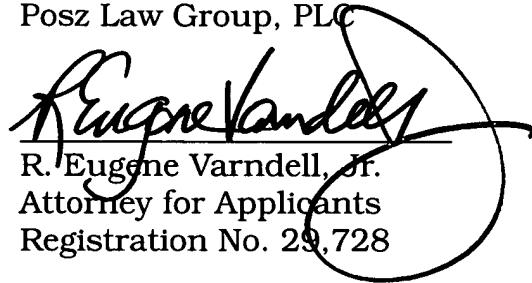
For at least the foregoing amendments and remarks, applicant respectfully submits that the presently claimed invention is patently distinguishable from the teachings of Norelius within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §102 or 35 U.S.C. §103. Therefore, applicant respectfully requests that the examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection of claim 1 over Norelius as set forth in the outstanding Office action.

Based on the above, a formal allowance of claims 1-5 is respectfully requested. While it is believed that all the claims in this application are in condition for allowance, should the examiner have any comments or questions,

it is respectfully requested that the undersigned be telephoned at the below listed number to resolve any outstanding issues.

In the event this paper is not timely filed, applicant hereby petitions for an appropriate extension of time. The fee therefor, as well as any other fees which become due, may be charged to our deposit account No. 50-1147.

Respectfully submitted,
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